

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS
AS TO
INSTRUCTION IN FARMING
IN THE
UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

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*A Self-supporting Occupation and Opening in Life for
Gentlemen's Sons.*

YOUNG gentlemen desiring to learn American agriculture thoroughly, with a view to commencing work on farms of their own, when they have gained sufficient experience, can be placed with carefully-chosen farmers in the best districts either of the Western or Southern States, or Canada, where they will receive board and residence in addition to monthly pay, so that from the commencement they can be self-supporting and start successfully. The system requires on the part of the pupil the same attention to the farm and actual labour as the owner of the farm and his sons are accustomed to bestow upon it, and almost anyone who has thus learned farming, can engage in it profitably on his own account, either by the purchase of land for cash, or on time payments extending over a term of years; or again, by joining the farmer he is

placed with, or some of his English companions; or by taking a farm on the share system, a plan commonly adopted in the States; or by acquiring 160 acres freehold, and free of cost, under the Homestead Act. In either of the last two methods he can, if it is necessary, commence with little or no capital beyond that which he may save out of his earnings, and though the progress then will be slower at first, it is the way in which many, and in some districts the majority, of Western American farmers begin.

The farmers selected to receive young men are chiefly those cultivating from 160 to 600 acres as mixed grain and stock farms, which are the size and description most general in the States; and as it would probably be on farms of this acreage that the majority of those going out would commence for themselves, it is unquestionably better for them to gain their experience in this manner than on larger farms; those, however, who desire to learn on larger farms, and can afterwards command the capital necessary to start and carry them on, can be suitably placed for that purpose, though the advice in all cases is that they should commence in the smaller way.

To those who prefer an active out-of-door life to the sedentary occupation of an office, or who seek, but are unable to find, an opening in England which will permit them to earn an income and maintain themselves, this occupation must specially commend itself; for the life is a manly, honest, self-reliant, and healthy one, and a substantial living can be the result.

But whilst it offers an assured future to those who will acquire habits of industry, and are content to live soberly

and economically, it is not desired to suggest change to such as have already settled occupations here, or to cause the slightest feeling of disappointment to those who go by any highly-coloured representations of the life.

Experience has shown that the best and proper way to start is by learning the business thoroughly at the outset in the manner here suggested, and without the aid of capital. Capital is of little or no use without experience, or, at any rate a fair knowledge of farming. Of course, where capital is wanting, progress will be slower at first, but whilst on the one hand there are many who have started without money and are yet prosperous, there are many more, especially among the English, who, after beginning farming with considerable capital, have lost it for lack of industry and experience.

The course here advocated is, that the learner should go out with a view to live and work precisely as the farmers themselves, their sons, and their men do, because the proper plan for anyone who intends to engage in farming is first to acquire this practical knowledge and experience, even if he has, or should hereafter have, the command of capital; and it is the only way in which those starting without capital, or with only a moderate amount, can become successful.

As to the work to be learned, it is the custom for farmers, especially in Canada and the Western States, to do the work themselves with but little hired help, and it is necessary, therefore, for a pupil not to be above learning to labour with his hands. Personal labour is not considered in the least derogatory in America, and as hired labour is generally expensive, especially at busy

seasons of the year, such as harvest, it is customary for a farmer to exchange work with his neighbour; the new settler, therefore, stands at a disadvantage, if, through being unable or unwilling to work, he is compelled to hire labour, or if his two days' time are only worth his neighbour's one day.

Those, therefore, who do not propose to learn farming by actively helping with the daily work, but wish to idle about towns, or only to ride about and overlook others, are not recommended to go under this system; for, though they might honestly believe they were doing all that was necessary for their future success, they would eventually find they had been acquiring only habits of idleness, never becoming thoroughly independent, but making constant demands for money on their friends at home, and permanently prejudicing their prospects.

This plain view of the matter is expressed in the interest only of the pupil and his friends. We are far from painting a success to be acquired without labour, or advocating a system under which we could easily, if so desired, place young men with farmers or other residents, who would be willing to receive them on moderate annual payments without expecting their help or exertions.

Nor can a residence with English gentlemen be recommended to those who go out to really learn farming, for though there are English families settled in various districts in comfortable homes, they are usually officers or other gentlemen who, having but recently gone, are only themselves learning American farming, and are, therefore, not qualified to teach it; these gentlemen, moreover, usually require high terms as payment for board and

residence, however long the pupil may remain (often as much as £100 a year), and usually give no wages; so that the young men neither become self-supporting, nor are taught as an American farmer who has begun without money and made his own way would be able to teach them; and unless they have acquired the knowledge of detail and habits of work and steadiness which a practical training gives, they will not be likely to succeed on farms of their own; it is not only knowing how to do the work, but the habit of actually doing it which is so necessary for their success when they start for themselves.

As to the country or district to be selected, there is no doubt that the States offer greater advantages than most of the English Colonies; not only are Australia and New Zealand far distant and the cost of the journey very great, but it now requires considerable capital to succeed in these colonies; the Cape has few advantages, and the constant difficulties with the natives cause considerable objection to settlement there.

In reference to the most desirable parts for settlement, the *Standard*, in commenting upon recent emigration statistics, says:—

“When we glance at the direction taken by the human flood which in June poured out of the Mersey, we find as usual that the great Republic obtained the greatest share of the fertilizing overflow of the Old Continent. Of these 26,688 people, 22,565 were bound for the United States, 3,837 for Canada, 40 for Australia, 173 for South America, and 31 for Africa, by which may be understood the Cape and Natal. . . . It may be therefore said in general terms that last month's emigrants went entirely to the United States and Canada. . . . The great distances of the South African and Australian colonies are a drawback to their settlement. With the exception of New Zealand and of Tasmania, in a less degree, they present but small attractions to the tiller of the soil.”

The district hitherto chiefly selected by this agency has been that of Southern Minnesota and Upper Iowa, a country exceptionally healthy. The climate is hotter in summer and colder in winter than in England, but the seasons are very enjoyable, the atmosphere is clear, dry, and bracing, and no rain falls during the winter months, which are much more healthy than in England.

The same characteristics of temperature, soil, and climate are also found in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, to which places we are now also sending pupils, and the farm-houses are usually better than in the first-named districts. The best parts of Canada also offer an excellent field for learning farming, probably better than any of the Prairie States do, though the prairies give better opportunities for buying or starting a farm. We have selected therefore the province of Ontario, as being one of the best districts in Canada, and eminently suited for those who desire to gain a thorough knowledge of American farming, and yet wish to remain subject to English laws. Many enquirers may prefer the milder winter climate and more equal seasons of some of the Southern States, and these we are placing in the well-known blue grass region of Kentucky, where the farms are large, and the homes more attractive than in the north. A training at any of the stations provided by us for pupils, qualifies them for settling in any part of the United States, Manitoba, or Canada where free lands are to be had, and their judgment in selecting a favourable locality for operations will be much assisted by the experience gained in their course of tuition.

The farm-houses in all of the Western distri are

usually unpretentious, smaller than in England, and not adorned with gardens: the living also is worse than that which young men well brought up here have been accustomed to, especially in the mode of cooking, which is very indifferent, but there is everywhere what may be termed a rough abundance.

The people are orderly, sober, honest, and steady; and the farmers, who have been carefully selected to receive the pupils, are among the best and most respected in the community, and will in each case do all in their power to make those they receive comfortable, provided they are industrious and steady.

Usually only one pupil will be placed on a farm, never more than two; and in every instance a separate bed-room is stipulated for, unless expressly stated to the contrary: some of the farmers wish to take two, but though the companionship of another young Englishman might be very agreeable, it is not considered to their ultimate advantage to be together. They will be more under the influence of the farmer and more interested in their work when on separate farms.

The cost of clothes and necessary expenditure need not exceed £10 a year, and can be provided out of their pay. Young men going out inexperienced would not at first be worth more than their board, but in the agreement made in advance with the farmers it is stipulated that they shall receive from £1 to £2 a month, in addition to board and residence, for the first twelve months or more, according to age and ability; after that time they are worth more to the farmer, and can in some cases earn as much as £4 a month throughout the year, if they are

strong, capable, and industrious ; but having by this time acquired self-reliance and experience in the business, they would be able, and prefer, to bargain on their own account, until they are ready to start on a farm of their own.

A probation of from one to three years is sufficient to confer such a thorough knowledge of the business as will qualify them to start on their own account, with a good prospect of success.

In corroboration of the views which have been advanced in this and previous editions of this pamphlet, respecting the necessity for some such probationary time being spent on an American farm before any investment of capital is made, the following extract is given from a speech by Mr. J. Walter, M.P. for Berkshire, and of the *Times* newspaper, who, in saying that he—

“Had some experience of the emigration of English farmers to America believed it would be greatly to their advantage, and would materially advance their object if they would serve a very few years of apprenticeship before they entered upon their career as farmers. To succeed as an emigrant farmer there should be at first, on one side or other of the Atlantic, an apprenticeship so to say to the business.”

In a subsequent speech Mr. Walter says :—

“I am firmly persuaded that America will become more a field of enterprise to thousands of English gentlemen, farmers, and other class of people. Before the close of next century there will be a population of 200 millions in the United States, and what I wish is that more Englishmen would go out there.”

The work required from those who go is hard, but beneficial to the health, and there is plenty of recreation ; for at certain seasons of the year, especially in Canada or

the West, there is little to be done on the farm, and much time is then pleasantly spent in social enjoyments; sport also is plentiful.

As to the profits to be derived from farming; the occupation should afford an income comparatively free from anxiety, sufficient for every need, for the maintenance of a family and a provision for the future:—and further, it may be stated that there are many cases in which farmers in some of the States referred to commenced without capital and have realized from £10,000 to £20,000, or more, from farming: this result is exceptional; it is, however, by no means exceptional to see well-to-do and thriving farmers who came into the country originally without any money at all. The advantages of superior education which most young Englishmen have received will, if they show equal industry with their American neighbours, ensure their becoming influential and respected members of the community, progress being much more rapid, and openings for advancement, both in agricultural and commercial life, much more numerous in America than in England. The author of "To Day in America" says:—

"Life in America must have special charms for young Englishmen who have to make their way in the world."

The total outlay necessary for entering on an American farm in the manner here indicated, under these auspices is:—For premium, in Canada, £60; in the Western States, £70; and in the Southern States, £80; beyond which there is no charge whatever, either annual or otherwise, and the only other outlay is for the cost of the journey, and such outfit as may be taken.

This premium covers the amount paid to the farmer as well as the agency here, and also the payment to the local agents who receive and place on suitable farms those who go, and who continue, from time to time, to advise them and see to their welfare; the proportion due to the farmer is in each case specified in the agreement and receipt, and this amount is paid to him by our agent when the contract is signed, after a month's trial has elapsed, and the pupil has signified his satisfaction with the way he is placed; this precaution being taken so that if any change of farm is necessary it can be the more readily made.

The question may arise in the reader's mind why should any premium be paid? It is undoubtedly true that young men can seek, and probably obtain temporary employment for themselves without paying any premium for being properly directed where to go, and for being provided with a settled home on their arrival; but the attempt has been found dangerous unless they have friends to whom they can apply, and then of course the services of a responsible agent are not necessary. It is very difficult for a young man without advice, in the States, to ascertain the best spot for his purposes; he would probably hang about large cities where employment is as difficult to find as it is in England, or if he should settle upon some country district he must lodge in hotels, and when successful in finding employment, it might be with unsuitable comrades, or undesirable acquaintances; and even if the consequences were not demoralizing, the difficulties to be endured would be very considerable. Of course, when experienced in farm life, it would be easy enough to find suitable places, but it is at the commence-

ment that help and guidance are of so much value; and experience shows that parents are safer in paying a premium to ensure suitable positions, for a certain term, on the arrival of their sons, than in sending them out in a haphazard manner to seek homes for themselves.

It should be understood also that the interest this agency takes in those who go out in this way does not cease upon their settlement on suitable farms; and it wishes to be kept informed of their progress, and to lend them every advice and assistance. Their first few months on a farm is probably the most trying time of all, and they are particularly desired, as soon as possible after arrival, to write their views, fully and freely, about the living and the work, to assist our judgment, and to show whether the best arrangements under the circumstances have been made; so that if for any reason a change seems necessary (as will sometimes happen even where the greatest care has been taken in selection), it may be made without delay, under proper instructions, and before the contract is closed with the farmer. In any case of doubt or difficulty, the pupil should at once seek and follow the advice of our local agents, and should write immediately to this office. Where any change is made without consulting with the agent or ourselves, we cannot undertake to be responsible for the result, although at all times, and under all circumstances, the best thing possible in the interest of the pupil will be done. Our interest in his welfare is identical with his own; we endeavour to take every precaution against dissatisfaction or failure and any further modification or safeguard suggested by experience will at once be adopted.

It is desirable that all who propose to settle in America should thoroughly understand what the life is like. A proper understanding of what they may expect has much to do with the result of the undertaking. Some are sure to say the hardships and differences in living are greater than they anticipated, and others similarly circumstanced will declare that the life is by no means so rough as they expected; all settlers will not meet with the same success, all will not be equally contented. Some, after a thorough trial, may not like the occupation or be fitted for it, but to these, openings in commercial life may present themselves, for such opportunities are more numerous there than in England. Others may not do well, from circumstances over which the agent who places them can have no control, and some few will be of a class who would not succeed anywhere. For the last, the kindest thing their friends can do is to leave them fairly started, entirely dependent on their own exertions, and not to be continually sending them money from home; for no one need suffer want who has ordinary bodily health; and the steadiness which this mode of life will sooner or later beget is an excellent course of training. We cannot be responsible for the consequences of irregular conduct; the system here recommended as a safe training and a valuable opening in life is based upon sobriety, steadiness, and self-control. The moral drawn by Robinson Crusoe, from his experience, will still apply that "the diligent lived well and comfortably, and the slothful lived hard and beggarly, and so I believe, generally speaking, it is all over the world."

The cost of journey will be covered by from £18 to £26, according to distance; it includes first-class cabin on

the steamship, first-class railway fares in America, Pullman's sleeping cars, and the whole of the hotel and living expenses. Detailed particulars of these expenses and of the journey are supplied before departure, and also letters of introduction, both in New York and at other points, where needed on the road.

The only addition to the premium and the cost of the journey is the outfit, which need not be large or expensive, but should consist of a supply of winter underclothing, and, in addition to the suits in ordinary wear, such worn clothes as may be hardly suitable for use here, but quite good enough for rough wear. Other clothing can be bought, as and when required, from their own pay; they learn thus to take care of their money; it is a mistaken kindness, on the part of parents or friends here, to send out additional amounts, for it only tends to promote a feeling of dependence upon home instead of one of self-reliance.

Proper agreements are entered into by us both with the farmers and the friends of the pupils, and the fullest particulars will be given on all points upon which further information is desired. Whenever it is possible, a personal interview is most satisfactory, for the numerous questions which naturally occur can then be more fully answered and explained than by letter.

Reference will be given to parents whose sons have gone out (many among the number being the sons of clergymen, officers, and members of county families), so soon as it has been decided that this proposed opening meets the views of the enquirer.

Cheques to be crossed Messrs. Melville, Evans and

Co., 75, Lombard Street, E.C., to whom Bankers' references may be made. Solicitors enquiring on behalf of clients are referred to Messrs. Wm. and A. Ranken Ford, Solicitors, 4, South Square, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.

The subjoined letter is from Mr. Farrar, who at one time wrote to some of the papers respecting this method of placing out young men to learn farming in the Western States. The correspondence which ensued was reprinted in full in all the earlier editions of this pamphlet; it is, however, omitted in this issue, because the present letter from Mr. Farrar renders its publication unnecessary.

"DEAR SIR,—

"I thank you for sending me the new edition of your pamphlet entitled 'Farm Pupils in America.' It appears to describe Farm Life and Prospects in the West, both fully and fairly, the picture certainly not being in any way overcoloured. I should in fairness say this to you, because last winter I ventured to express a different opinion to some of the London papers, at a time when your arrangements had not the completeness and maturity which they appear to possess now. The test of practical experience is, undoubtedly, the best evidence in favour of your plans, and in view of the satisfaction which they are found to give, it would be impossible to deny their success.

"I have, as you know, always been strongly of opinion that English settlers should not go out and attempt the business of farming without sufficient practical training, for, if they do, that course will probably lead to a loss, at any rate of some part of the capital they invest. I have no doubt that a year or two's training under a good practical farmer will prove the metal of the young men, and their fitness for a life requiring work. If eventually they do not like the occupation, they will have gained in health, and have been placed in a fair way of becoming frugal and industrious, while if they go through the trial successfully, any capital which their friends can afterwards supply them with to purchase and stock a farm will have many times the value of the actual amount of money given them at the start.

" I think your plan of sending these young men to American farmers is the only proper course. I should not recommend anyone to go to an English settler who had himself only recently learned the business of American farming, and, so far as my experience goes, what are known as English Colonies in the States, had better be avoided.

" I am, dear Sir,

" Yours faithfully,

" (Signed) J. M. FARRAR, M.A.,

" Official Commissioner for Immigration, Minnesota, and author of 'Five Years in Minnesota.' "

" H. F. SHEARMAN, Esq.,

" London, 25th July, 1881."

This system has been very generally commended, and the pamphlets describing it have been prepared with a desire to place the matter candidly before enquirers. In evidence that this object has been obtained, quotations may be given from a few of the numerous letters received from correspondents. A clergyman, in writing on this subject, says :—

" I thank you for abstaining from inducing my son to go by any highly coloured representations of the life there."

Others say of this publication

" It makes a most candid statement of the facts, dealing fairly with both sides of the question. There is nothing in it to lead me to expect too much without activity."

As to the desirability of the life, a gentleman, resident in Staffordshire, writes on February 14th, 1881 :

" A friend has placed in my hands a pamphlet containing your prospectus (if I may so term it) of an 'occupation and business for gentlemen's sons.' He did so knowing the great interest I had in things American, acquired during a period of sixteen years' residence in the States, and also for the purpose of asking my advice in the matter, in the interest of a friend of his.

"I have perused the various documents with much interest, and your scheme has my entire approval and, if anything I can say or write will induce any enterprising young man to go out, shall consider that I am conferring upon *him* a great favour.

"Your great difficulty, it strikes me, speaking from an English standpoint, is to make them understand how the dignity of labour is respected in the States"

And even whilst the correspondence was going on between Mr. Farrar and myself the Editor of the *Field* newspaper, in a note appended to one of the letters, says:

"We have no wish to interfere in a case of conflicting interest, but, in justice to Mr. Shearman, it should be stated that he has laid the papers and circulars referred to in his letter before us, and we have failed to see in them anything but straightforward business, and evidence of considerable care on his part."

To which independent testimony nothing need be added.

OPINIONS OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE.

It has been suggested by several correspondents that a few of the written opinions of those who have gone out under these auspices should be appended, so that enquirers may be able at once to form an opinion upon the testimony of those having actual experience of the life as to the desirability of the openings here proposed. We avail ourselves of this suggestion, which will serve at once to place before applicants some idea of the young men's opinion of the life, without requiring at an early stage of the negotiation an actual reference to parents, which we do not feel at liberty to give unrestrictedly in the first instance, solely because it would be trespassing unduly on their kindness by asking them to engage in such an extensive correspondence [as [an immediate reference to them would involve.

One of the pupils, a member of a county family, in a long letter written on October 10th, 1880, states that he is "placed satisfactorily in every way," and says:

"Mr. and Mrs. — are as kind as possible to me, and I have to thank you again for the pleasant place you secured for me. It is much better than I ever anticipated."

The farmer he is with, writes on October 9th, 1880:

"A— is doing nicely, and seems to be much pleased with everything. We are very much pleased with him, and expect to turn him out an A 1 farmer, should he continue with us long enough."

The father of this young gentleman writes, November 2nd, 1880:

"I have had several letters from my son, in all of which he expresses his satisfaction at being placed with Mr. — . . . I heard from my son that he was 'jolly well settled,' as he called it. . . . I can quite understand that some of your party were disappointed at the prospect of work. My son evidently likes Mr. and Mrs. — very much, and he says he is very comfortable. and well lodged and boarded; he takes a great interest in the stock, of which he has now the charge. I should add that my son says in one of his letters that his ideas of roughing it are by no means realized."

And again on the 26th April, 1881:

"Two more of my sons are thinking of joining their brother Bob in America, and have only been waiting to hear from him and Mr. M— definitely. He wrote about a fortnight since—was very well, had been head man for three months in Mr. M—'s absence. The latter also writes that he has been very successful in his stewardship."

An officer's son who went out, writes on December 21st, 1880:

". . . . Well, as regards my new home, I could not wish for a more comfortable place. Both Mr. and Mrs. — are exceed-

ingly kind, and I am sure Mr. R—— has chosen me a very comfortable place indeed; and as to the work, it certainly is pretty hard at first, but I am getting accustomed to it, and, on the whole, it is really much better than I ever anticipated."

His father writes, on January 20th, 1881 :

"We to-day received a long letter from ——, written in the highest spirits possible. To judge from its tone, he must be very happy and comfortable, and his own words are, 'I like the life very much, and like it better every day.' He speaks in the highest terms of the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. ——, who, he says, are kindness itself I give you all these details to show you that the boy is really satisfied, and, after all the interest and kindness you have shown him, I know you will be pleased."

And again, in February, the same gentleman writes :

"You will be glad to hear that —— continues to write in the best of spirits, and expresses himself as fully satisfied and contented."

Another gentleman writes on the 24th January, 1881, respecting a relative who was one of the first to go out :

"I have lately heard from ——, when he seemed well and satisfied with the arrangements as carried out, having been placed with a Mr. T——. The work was hard as was to be expected, and though he has since left Mr. T—— and joined another farm, it was by mutual arrangement, and he speaks highly of that person and Mrs. T——'s kindness, and has great goodwill towards them both."

One, a gentleman, aged twenty-one, on his arrival, writes on January 25th, 1881 :

"I arrived here all safe and sound after a splendid passage; it was like crossing a mill-pond; we did it under eight days from Queenstown.

"I must say this, that ever since I landed I have met with nothing but kindness, everybody has been most attentive; I like Mr. R—— and Mr. C——, what little I have seen of them so far,

very much indeed, and they all speak very highly of Mr. V——. . . . I like the country and the people so far very much. I will write you again and tell you how I get on with Mr. V——, but from what Mr. R——, Mr. C——, and Mr. N——, the banker, say, I feel no anxiety on that score."

Two gentlemen, whose sons are on farms, write me as follows :

"I write to you to say that my son, in the letters we have hitherto received from him, expresses himself well satisfied with the people with whom you have placed him, and he speaks highly of the attentions he has received from your agents, Mr. C—— and Mr. R——.

"You certainly took a great interest in sending my son to a farm like Mr. B——'s, and his letter seems a very happy one. I can only say that I am more than satisfied."

H. F. W., aged 24, writes on March 23rd, 1881 :

"I like the change of life and farming immensely. Mr. and Mrs. —— are nice, kind, and homely people, and strive to do their utmost to make everything comfortable for me. I never enjoyed better health than I do now. We are constantly having people stopping here, which makes it cheerful. Altogether I am much pleased with everyone and everything I have come across out here."

J. G., aged 20, writes, March 20th, 1881 :

"Taking everything into consideration, I like the prospect better than I expected. Mr. D—— seems a very nice man, and makes us as comfortable as possible."

G. C., an officer, writes, April 12th, 1881 :

"I am glad to let you know at an early date that I think every thing with my boy is progressing satisfactorily."

Dr H., in a letter dated March 31st, 1881, says :

"I must beg you to accept my best thanks for your kindness generally to my sons, and I am sure they very, very much appreciate all your attentions to their wants, &c."

H. G., aged 27, writes on April 10th, 1881 :

"I had no trouble whatever in getting to W—; everyone you referred me to was as obliging as possible. Mr. C— I particularly like, and Mr. R— is a very good fellow I will tell you what I think of the people and the life ; in the first place, the house is exceptionally good, and the people are very clean and homely, and make me very comfortable."

A lady, whose son, L. E. C., aged 17, sailed in March, writes, May 2nd, 1881 :

"This morning I received a letter from my son, who, I am glad to say, is thoroughly happy and satisfied with everything. He is with Mr. G—, and my boy says I cannot think how nice he is."

L. E. C., aged 17, writes on the 30th April, 1881 :

"In some respects the life is not so rough as I anticipated, because I expected to be in a location where it would be much rougher and not much civilization Mr. G— is very considerate and nice His wife is also very nice and kind. I think he thoroughly understands farming and is quite competent in teaching it I am extremely happy and do not wish for a better place Both Mr. R— and Mr. C— have been exceedingly kind, and did all in their power to make us comfortable."

A gentleman in Manchester writes on May 5th, 1881, giving extracts from the letter of a relative who went out, and says :

"I may add that Mr. G— writes in the best of spirits, and is perfectly satisfied in all respects, and his friends are the same. This is a source of great gratification to me, as I was the means of Mr. G— going out, and of course felt some degree of anxiety as to the result. I shall now have no hesitation whatever in strongly urging any young men who apply to me to go out under your auspices."

Mrs. L. A. writes, June 14th, 1881:

"I have this morning received a very cheerful letter from my son He wishes me to tell you he thinks he has a very good berth He quite thinks he shall get on well when more accustomed to the work, and has no wish to return to England."

T. G. E. writes on June 27th, 1881, respecting his brother:

"That he is happy, contented, and well, may be gathered from the following extract:— 'I can tell you I am very much fatter since I left England; I don't think you would know me, being so fat and brown. I like the place very much. I like my place awfully, and should advise G——to come out. I have seen a lot of our fellows since I have been here, and they all seem to like it.'"

A gentleman, who sent out his son some time ago, says in a recent letter:

"I fully agree with you that it would be very injudicious and a rash proceeding on the part of any young man to go out on his 'own hook' as it were, and take his chance at finding a domicile without the introduction and guardianship of an agency. I did that myself to an English colony some thirty years ago and failed."

Mrs. E. B—— writes, on July 14th, 1881, respecting her son:

"He is very happy and takes to the life and work The life just suits him, I think, and I am much obliged for all your trouble."

The following are extracts from a letter received in July, 1881, from a Mr. O. E——, 25 years old, who has gone out as a farm pupil:

"Just a line to say I am getting on very well here. I should have written before, but really I have had no time, and another thing I wanted to give myself a fair trial before passing my opinion about this country I like it very much indeed. The

people are very nice, but their manners and customs are somewhat different to ours in England; however, I am getting used to them now I have got a very good place. I like these people very much and they seem very well pleased with me. Mr. R—I think a very nice man, indeed; he has taken a great deal of trouble with us, but he seems to take a great interest in us and does everything that he can for our benefit I must say I am very well satisfied with my berth and have no desire to go home again. I consider you have done and caused to be done everything in your power to make me comfortable and happy. I am as comfortable as though I were at home. I do almost as I like, I get plenty of riding and shooting; in fact it seems like a new life altogether to what I have been used to. You are quite at liberty to make any use you like of my letter. I have written home in the same manner as this, and you may refer anyone to my brother; you have his address, and I am sure he will have very great pleasure in recommending anyone to come out here from what I have said."

Mrs. R. S. B. writes on July 26th, 1881 :

"I have just heard from my son, who says:—'I have been here now six weeks and like my life very much; it is hard work, but the people all round are very kind to me, and take as much thought for me as if I belonged to them. P—and I go to church every Sunday, and dine in the town with one family or another, all of whom give us a hearty welcome. I am allowed to take any horse I like out of the stable to ride in my leisure time. The other day J— P—and I went for 3½ hours fishing and caught between 200 and 300 fish."

You can make any use you like of this extract. I shall be most happy to answer any questions that may be wished answered by anyone proposing to go out under your auspices."

Among the more recent letters may be quoted the following:—

Mrs. S. A., 7th October, 1881 :

"My son writes very cheerfully and is quite comfortable in his new home."

C. W. R., 14th September, 1881 :

"I have been at the above address nearly six weeks. I like the folks very much, and intend to stay."

E. P., 14th August, 1881 :

"We are as happy here and as well cared for as we can possibly wish, and never did we expect to be so happy when we left dear old England; but we are as happy as if we were at home."

W. F. (undated):

"I am very much contented with the very nice place you have got me . . . I am quite contented with Mr. C—and his family, and I am quite happy here."

E. F., 2nd July, 1881 :

"The soil here is certainly first-rate, but farmers do not seem to raise half such good wheat crops as I should have expected they would. If a man raises about 16 bushels an acre he thinks he has done pretty well. I shall take a farm of my own next year, and see if I cannot get a little better acreage."

W. T. S. H. (undated):

"I am now settled in my new home, which is a very jolly one, and I hope that all the others have as good a one."

E. V., 28th October, 1881 :

"I beg to tender my best thanks for the trouble you have taken with my nephew."

J. E., 6th August, 1881 :

"I have two letters now from my son, who has been placed with a farmer named N—of M—, and he seems very well satisfied so far. Will you kindly accept my thanks and convey the same to Mr. R— when you write, for the interest you have both taken in the matter."

Mrs. M. P., 30th August, 1881 :

"I have just received a letter from my son I am anxious that you should know at once how happy and comfortable he is settled, with a very kind farmer in D. C.—He says 'I have been awfully lucky to get on such a nice farm The farmer and his wife are extremely nice. They are awfully good and kind, and very clean I shall write and thank Mr. S—— for having arranged everything for me so satisfactorily, and tell him how happy and comfortable I am.'"

R. S. B., 4th November, 1881 :

"The account of my son is most pleasing and must, I am sure, be very satisfactory to you also, I am most thankful that he is giving and receiving so much satisfaction. He always writes in the best of spirits; only in his last letter he says—'This is the jolliest life it is possible for any fellow to lead.'"

One gentleman whose son returned home without giving farming a trial, writes:—

"I am glad to think that after all, everything has been done by your Company which could have been expected I was very sorry to find he had given up so suddenly and returned home quite without my knowledge or consent he ought to have remained the year instead of returning so soon I much regret all the trouble that has been caused."

G. D. W., 9th November, 1881:

"I am very sorry my son did not do better I have always considered your plans and transactions most straightforward."

Mrs. J. H., 9th November, 1881:

"I cannot express the gratitude I feel to your agents in America for their trouble with my son, and I am exceedingly rejoiced to find he has listened to them and been induced to go to work again, and I trust he has made up his mind to be contented."

Mrs. S. A——, November 7th, 1881, writing respecting her son, says:—

“He always writes cheerfully himself, and seems to like Mr. N—— very much.”

W. R., 7th November, 1881.

“So far the arrangements made with you have been most satisfactorily carried out, and no difficulty has arisen on any one point, and I beg to express my great satisfaction in having been able to place E——where he may acquire a thorough knowledge of American farming, and an introduction to a new mode of life, and to thank you for the interest you have taken in the matter.”

Mrs. M. P. writes, 8th November, 1881, saying that her son

“Writes most cheerfully and is as happy as possible, and likes his life very much, he speaks most highly of Mr. C——and their attention and kindness to him.”

The following extracts are from a few of the letters written by pupils to our local agents after being about a month on their farms; they are inserted to illustrate the care taken to ensure the selection of a satisfactory farm and comfortable home, a transfer being readily made for any just reason before the contract with the farmer is finally closed.

W. H., 20th August, 1881:

“I hereby authorise you to settle contract with Mr. G. H——, being satisfied with the farm I have been placed upon.”

A. E. K., and J. F. K., 6th August, 1881:

“I am satisfied with my place and home, and have agreed to receive five dollars for the first three months, and ten dollars for the other nine months.”

A. M., 6th August, 1881 :

"I am glad to say I am quite happy and contented. Whenever Mr. N—— is ready, would you and he settle. Thanking you for your kindness and trouble."

C. W. R., and C. W., 24th September, 1881 :

"We are perfectly satisfied to settle with Messrs. D—— and C——, as agreed with you to-day on the terms we have stipulated."

S. J. P., 7th August, 1881 :

"I wrote to remind you that I shall have been here with Mr. S—— a month next Saturday, and to inform you that I have decided to stop, and Mr. S—— agrees to keep me here for the next twelve months."

H. M., 30th,——1881 :

"Just a line to let you know that I am now willing to abide by the contract you usually make with the farmer by whom we are employed. With kind regards."

W. A., 16th September, 1881 :

"I shall have been here four weeks to-morrow, and as I am very comfortable, I shall be glad if you will make the agreement for me to stay twelve months."

E. P. C. 16th August, 1881 :

"I am quite satisfied with Mr. C——, and you may, with safety send him the premium. I have told him I am satisfied, and that I have written to you to say so."

W. T. S. H., 11th August, 1881 :

"I have settled to remain with Mr. F——, after having spent very happy month."

In regard to the advantages offered by some of the Southern States, the following are quoted from recent official communications :

The Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of North Carolina writes, 17th August, 1881 :

"I am instructed by His Excellency, Governor Jarvis, to express his cordial approbation of the scheme unfolded in your letter; he regards it as one at once practical in its nature, and in its design calculated to accomplish great good. The Governor thinks that a young Englishman can nowhere in the Continent find a better theatre for a useful career With reference to the tone and popular feeling here with regard to labour and the estimate in which it is held, I beg to draw your attention to an address of our Governor, delivered at Randolph Macon College, in June last, as the utterance of one of the great practical intellects of our State one who by position and talents is its proper exponent, it will have for you a just significance."

The Director of the Geological Survey of Kentucky writes as follows, regarding this system, 3rd September, 1881 :

"I believe you have the right plan, and that much loss and disappointment will be avoided by young Englishmen who will come to this country and remain at work on a farm before investing. I believe that Kentucky offers peculiar advantages for putting in practice such a work. In Central Kentucky the farm-houses are larger and better than I have seen elsewhere in America, the farmers are very intelligent and are celebrated for their good living. Agriculture is also more diversified, and the farm-student can here learn all kinds of farming, and also stock breeding from the most intelligent breeders in America One of our United States Senators came to Kentucky a poor Scotch lad, and went on a farm at ten dollars per month. I will take pleasure in co-operating with you in your good work."

The Hon. John S. Williams, United States Senator,
for Kentucky, writes as follows :

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
WASHINGTON, October 13th, 1881.

HENRY FRANKLIN SHEARMAN, ESQ.,

"DEAR SIR,

"I think well of your plan of introducing into Kentucky young Englishmen who wish to learn American modes of business. I think Kentucky the most desirable of all the States of the Union for the better class of English Emigrants. The Kentuckians are nearly all descended from English ancestors, and have still strongly marked traits of English character. There is a striking resemblance between the blue-grass region of Kentucky and some of the best portions of England.

As an agricultural and stock raising country, Kentucky has no equal on the American Continent. The other States all come to Kentucky for their fine horses and cattle. Not an American horse has won a race in England that did not come from Kentucky. The soil is of surprising fertility, and the climate so mild that men may work on our farms every day in the year. Geological survey shews that Kentucky has more coal and iron than the whole of Great Britain. The farmers of Kentucky, as you must have observed are superior to those of any other State of our Union. Kentucky is the only State where the rich and educated people reside upon and cultivate their own farms. I am a farmer myself and produce tobacco wheat, Indian corn, sheep, and short horn cattle; and within the last year have sold from off a farm of 1,200 acres 32,000 dollars worth of products, without touching a short horn, and this without any artificial manure. I usually get 100 bushels of Indian corn, 35 bushels of wheat, 75 bushels of oats, and 1,500 lbs. of White Burley tobacco to the acre.

I sold a few weeks since my last year's crop of tobacco at a price which averaged me 300 dollars to the acre. I gave the tenants one half for their work, which left me 150 dollars clear rent to the acre. Our climate is healthy, and nowhere in the world is animal life, both in man and the lower animals to be found in a more vigorous and perfect existence than in Kentucky.

Very truly yours,

JOHN S. WILLIAMS.

"KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION,
"JOHN R. PROCTER, Director.

"FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY,

"October 10th, 1881.

"DEAR SIRS,

"I am instructed by His Excellency, The Governor of Kentucky, to inform you that the plans of the *American Colonization Company* of London, England, proposed and submitted by you, meet with his warm approval, and that he will co-operate with you in your endeavours to send young men to this State. He believes that the geographical position of Kentucky, its salubrity of climate, fertility of soil, and great undeveloped wealth in coal, iron, and timbers, make it a most desirable field for the introduction of foreign labour and capital. To persons seeking pleasant homes or remunerative investments in this State he extends a cordial invitation, with the assurance of a warm welcome. As Director of the Geological Survey and Bureau of Immigration I beg to assure you of my hearty co-operation, and will spare no efforts necessary to aid in furtherance of your plans.

"Respectfully yours,

JOHN R. PROCTER,

"State Geologist.

"Approved,—LUKE V. BLACKBURN, Governor of Kentucky.'

Visitors may see at an interview any of the letters quoted in this pamphlet, as well as numerous others on the same subject; the fullest enquiry is invited into the working of the system.

Solicitors may refer in the first instance to Messrs. Wm. and A. Ranken Ford, No. 4, South Square, Gray's Inn, London; and Bankers to Messrs. Melville, Evans & Co., 75, Lombard Street, E.C.

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H. F. SHEARMAN & Co.,
AMERICAN COLONIZATION COMPANY,
21, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.